

REMARKS

With the present amendment, claims 1, 14, 15, 29, and 30 have been amended.

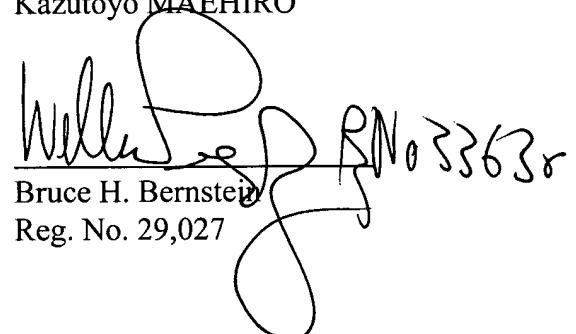
Applicant would like to express his appreciation to the Examiner for discussing this case with applicant's representative, Mr. Alan M. Lenkin, on February 12, 2004. As discussed during the interview, claims 1 and 15 have been amended to further define the membership information.

Any amendments to the claims in this amendment that have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Kazutoyo MAEHIRO

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A handwritten signature of Bruce H. Bernstein, consisting of stylized initials and the name followed by a registration number.

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